

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE - EPO

D-80298 MUNCHEN

GERMANY

Paris, 6/06/2005

Our Ref. no. 33984/PCT

Your Ref.

Subject: Patent application: PCT no. PCT/FR04/01599 dated 24/06/2004: "Method of decorating an article and equipment for implementing said method"

Dear Sir or Madam,

We are following up the Written Opinion drawn up by the Authorities in charge of the preliminary international examination of the patent application mentioned in the subject line.

As a follow-up to this Written Opinion, we suggest deleting claim no. 17 from the set of claims. We also suggest removing the passage in the description that states that the invention also relates to equipment for implementing the method (page 6, lines 11 to 14).

We have enclosed a version of page 6 with the description modified and a version of page 14 with the description modified.

Yours faithfully.

[Illegible signature]

Thomas GALLEZOT

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Julien SAYETTAT

Attached: 2 modified description pages

According to an advantageous embodiment of the invention, the method comprises a transfer step, in which the transfer sheet forms a watertight envelope around the article to be decorated, connected to a depression spring.

- 5 The heating in order to activate the ink during the transfer step is preferably provided by means of immersion in an alloy consisting of bismuth, lead, tin and cadmium (Bi 50%, Pb 25%, Sn 12.5%, Cd 12.5%), which has a melting point of around 70°C, maintained at a temperature of around 190°C.
- 10 The invention will be understood better from reading the following description of non-exhaustive examples of implementation.

The transfer sheet for implementing the method advantageously consists of:

- 15 - a Teflon film
- a sheet of transfer paper used for decorating a fabric by sublimation
- a sheet of backing paper

- a flocked glue
- 20 - made from a flocked elastomer
- made from a flocked natural latex
- made from a flocked synthetic latex
- a sheet of flocked natural polyisoprene.

15. Method of decorating an article according to claim 1,
25 characterised in that the heat-activated substance consists,
for example, of a heat-activated glue that comprises
pigments or metal powders.

16. Method of decorating an article according to claim 1,
characterised in that it comprises a step consisting of
30 unwinding a transfer sheet in the form of a strip, and of
bringing it into contact with a wire to be decorated
upstream from the bath.